



BEST  
OF  
THE  
WEST

THE 7<sup>th</sup> BIG ISSUE OF-

# BEST OF THE WEST

NO. 7







WEB COMIC  
UNIVERSE.COM





# HEY KIDS!

## make your own INDIAN OUTFIT



### INDIAN MOCCASIN KIT

Complete materials as follows: Authentic Indian moccasin pattern and work-sheet, sufficient leather to construct pair up to and including man's size 12, 2 ounces of pony type beads, needle, thread and beeswax. For boys and girls. Price \$2.95



### LARGE INDIAN HEADDRESS

Kit includes: 1 set 30 imitation Eagle tail feathers 10 to 12 inches long, 1 set 30 base plumes, 1 set 30 tip plumes, 1 set 30 leather strips, 1 set 30 felt strips, 1 cloth crown, 1 lace, 1 tube glue, 1 bunch black horsehair, 2 yds. linen thread, 1 imitation beadstrip for front, 1 pair imitation beaded rosettes, 2 fur strips, illustrations and descriptions for assembly. Price \$3.45

### AUTHENTIC INDIAN BEADWORK KIT

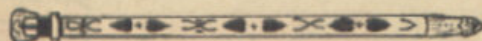


Make and wear beautiful and unusual belts, bracelets, necklaces, watch fobs, and other Indian beaded decorations. Kit includes: 1 bead loom, 8 vials of best grade Czech seed beads, 10 beading needles, beading thread, warp thread, and illustrated designs and detailed work sheet.

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☐ One dollar, ship by C.O.D. (I will pay the balance plus mailing charges.)
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Please print clearly  
Fully Illustrated Catalog. Send 10c to cover postage.



# GHOST RIDER

*the*

THE BOOK WAS FIVE HUNDRED YEARS OLD. ITS LEATHER WAS DRY AND CRACKING — ITS PARCHMENT PAGES WERE CURLING AND YELLOW. BUT TO READ IT MEANT **DEATH!**

BLACK MAGIC HAD GUIDED ITS AUTHOR'S PEN — AND THE ANCIENT SPELL WAS AS POTENT AS EVER WHEN **THE GHOST RIDER**, DEFYING EVIL, SLOWLY OPENED...

"THE  
**BOOK**  
OF  
**DOOM**"

ATERS

LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES AGO THIS MAN OF SCIENCE, GRAVE AND IMPERTURABLE, LIFTED THE MASSIVE COVER OF THE BOOK OF DOOM. NOW — BEREFT OF HIS SENSES, HE RUNS FRENZIEDLY —!

—TO HIS DOOM!

STAND BACK!  
DON'T COME  
CLOSER! NO!  
NO!

WEEEEEE



THE NEXT MORNING —

"I WARNED HIM, SHERIFF — BUT HE INSISTED ON OPENING THE BOOK OF DOOM. I HEARD HIS CRIES LAST NIGHT AND SAW HIM THRU MY WINDOW. IT WAS AWFUL! HE RAN SCREAMING OVER THE CLIFF!"

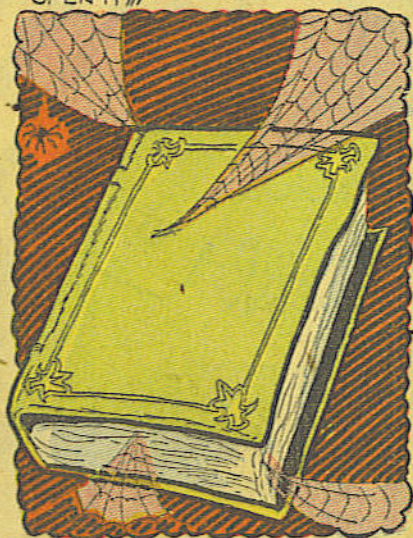
"I'M NOT MUCH FOR BOOK-LEARNIN'. TELL ME ABOUT THIS BOOK, MR. PHILBRICK."



"FLORIO WAS A HEADSMAN OF THE MIDDLE AGES. HE ALSO PRACTISED BLACK MAGIC. IT IS WRITTEN THAT BY MEANS OF A SPECIAL PHILTRE, FLORIO IMPRESSED THE SPIRITS OF HIS VICTIMS INSIDE THE BOOK KNOWN NOW TO SCHOLARS AS THE BOOK OF DOOM."



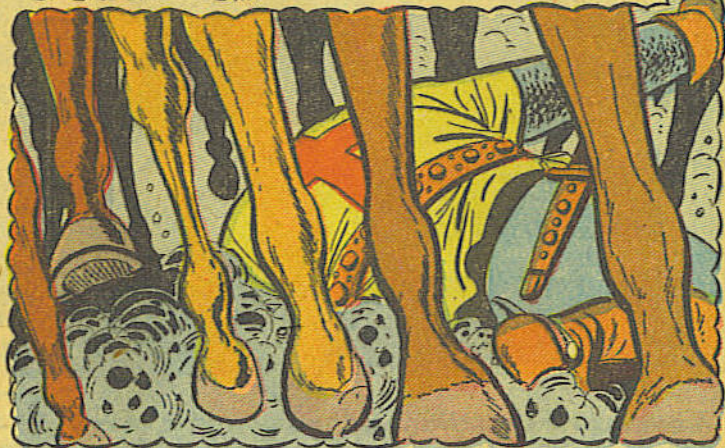
"FLORIO LAID A CURSE ON THE BOOK. FOR MANY YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH NO ONE DARED OPEN IT."



"EDWARD, THE BRAVE, WAS THE FIRST ONE WHO DARED. THIS WAS IN 1599."



"NO ONE KNOWS WHAT EDWARD SAW. BUT HE RAN SCREAMING FROM THE CASTLE WHERE THE BOOK LAY — ONLY TO DIE HORRIBLY UNDER THE HOOFES OF THE FRIGHTENED HORSES OF A PASSING BAND OF CRUSADERS."



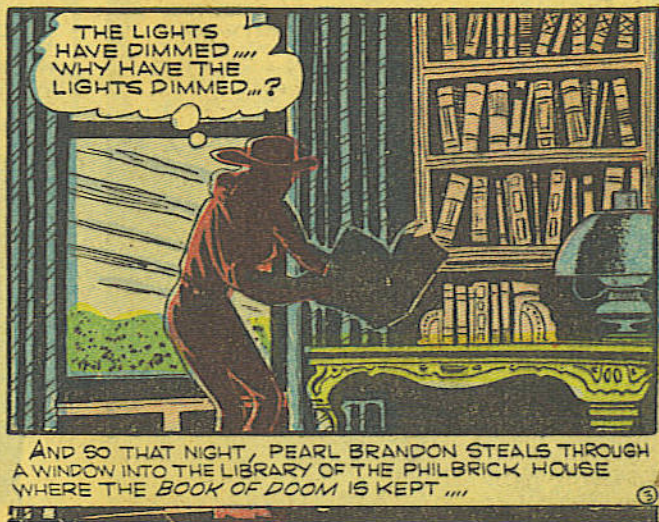
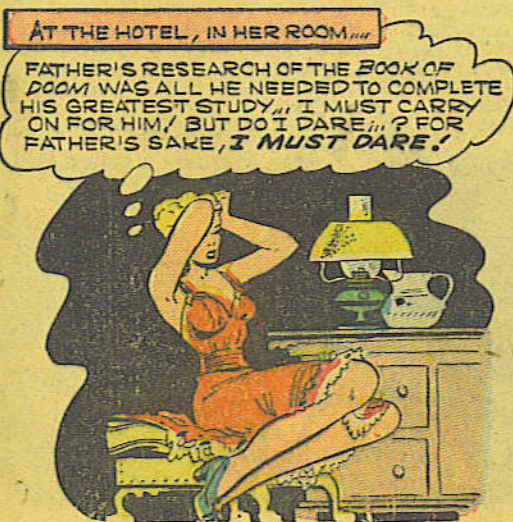
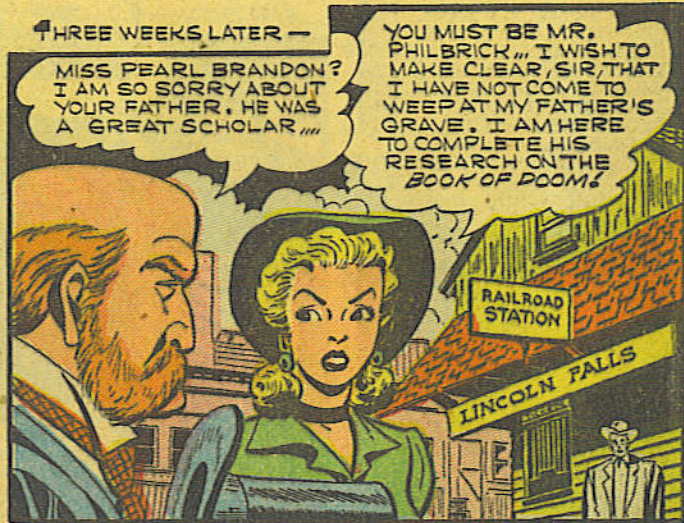
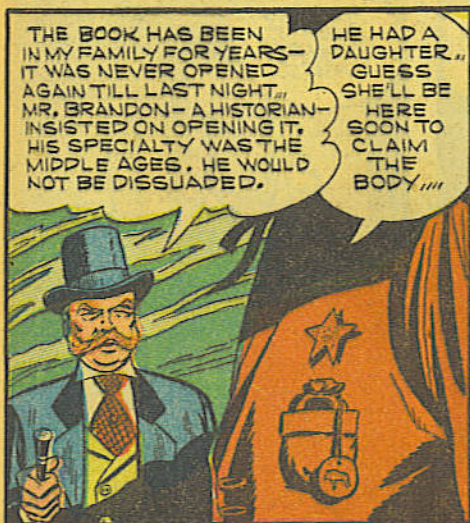
"PAUL LEDUC, A SCIENTIST, WAS THE SECOND MAN TO DARE OPEN THE BOOK OF DOOM. THIS WAS IN 1784."



"THOSE WHO SAW LEDUC'S FACE AFTERWARDS, SAID IT WAS FROZEN WITH HORROR! THE POOR MAN RAN SIGHTLESSLY INTO A NEARBY LAKE. HE DROWNED, STILL SCREAMING."







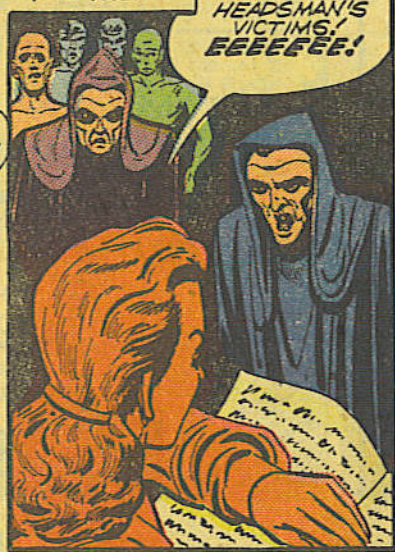


FALTERINGLY, PEARL BRANDON LIFTS THE MASSIVE COVER... THERE IS AN EERIE HISSING—AND SHE IS ENVELOPED BY A BLOOD-RED MIST...



CAN'T BREATHE, MY EYES FEEL SO HEAVY...

AND THEN—

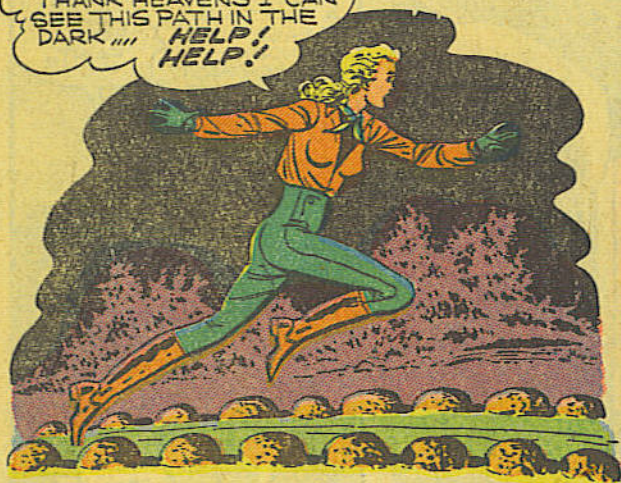


THE HEADSMAN'S VICTIMS, EEEEEEE!

NO! NO! DON'T TOUCH ME!



THANK HEAVENS I CAN SEE THIS PATH IN THE DARK... HELP! HELP!



A CLIFF! I'M GOING TO UNHH!



LASSOED YOU JUST IN TIME, MA'AM. YOU WERE RUNNING OVER THE CLIFF—

THERE WAS THE RED MIST... AND THEN THE SPIRITS ROSE FROM THE DARK AND... SOB... REACHED FOR ME WITH THEIR SLIMY HANDS...



THE PATH... I FOLLOWED THE PATH... WHO ARE YOU? W-WHAT WERE YOU DOING HERE?

I WAS TAKING A SHORT CUT OVER THE MOUNTAIN. I'M REX FURY, A FEDERAL MARSHAL. THE SHERIFF OUT HERE SENT WORD ABOUT A GANG OF OWLHOOTS OPERATING IN THIS TERRITORY—JEWEL AND GOLD DUST ROBBERIES... WHAT'S THAT ON THE GROUND?



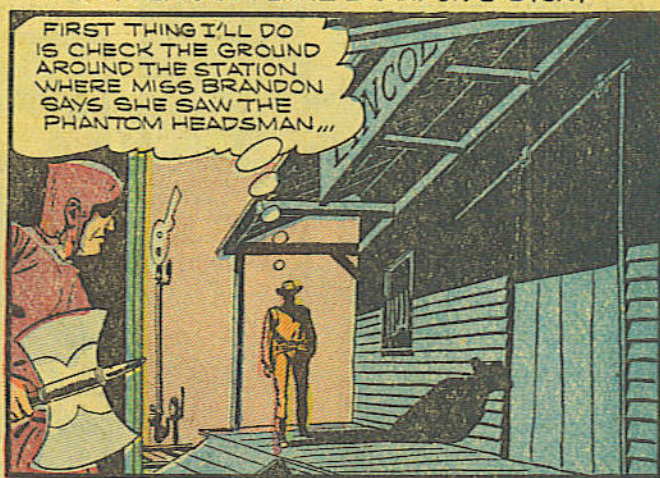


NO WONDER YOU FOLLOWED THE PATH RIGHT OVER THE CLIFF — IT'S LINED WITH PHOSPHORESCENT STONES! SOMEONE MEANT FOR YOU TO GET KILLED, MA'AM! I'M TAKING YOU BACK TO WHERE YOU'RE STAYING, AND ON THE WAY, I WANT TO HEAR WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!!!

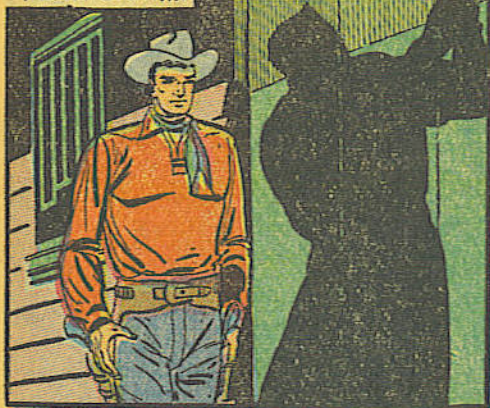


AFTER HEARING PEARL BRANDON'S STORY —

FIRST THING I'LL DO IS CHECK THE GROUND AROUND THE STATION WHERE MISS BRANDON SAYS SHE SAW THE PHANTOM HEADSMAN!!!

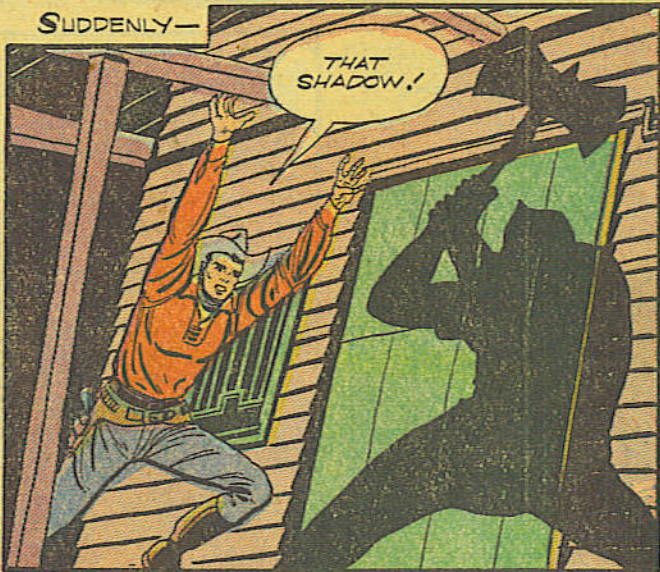


REX WALKS FORWARD, HIS BROW FURROWED WITH THOUGHT. THE ONLY SOUND HE HEARS IS THE CLICK-CLACK OF HIS OWN BOOTS ON THE ROUGH-HEWN STATION PLATFORM!!!!

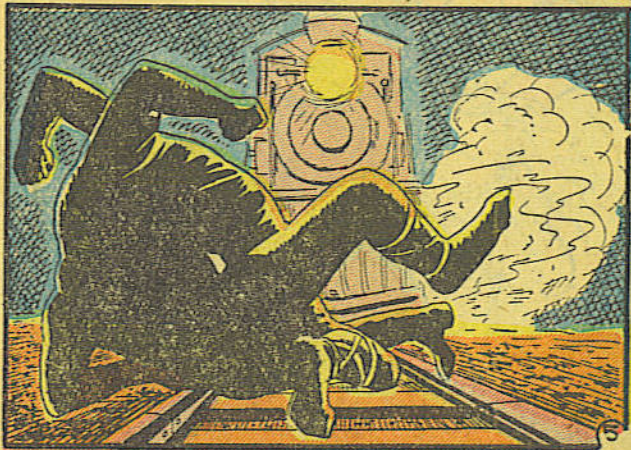
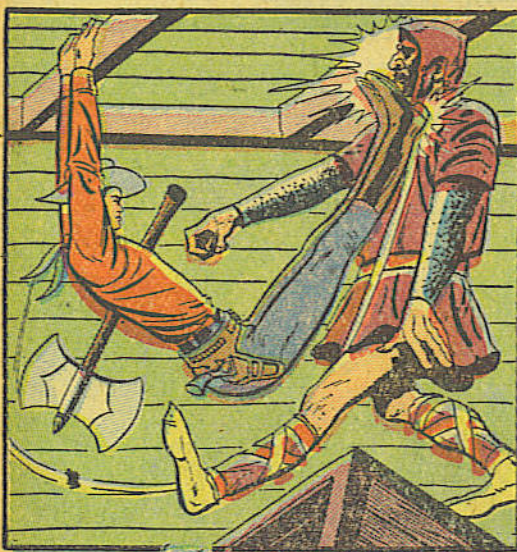


SUDDENLY —

THAT SHADOW!



BUT THE HEADSMAN FIGHTS BACK FURIOUSLY! HE AND REX FALL, ROLL FORWARD, AND GRAPPLE ON THE RAILROAD TRACK, DIRECTLY IN THE PATH OF THE ONRUSHING LINCOLN EXPRESS!

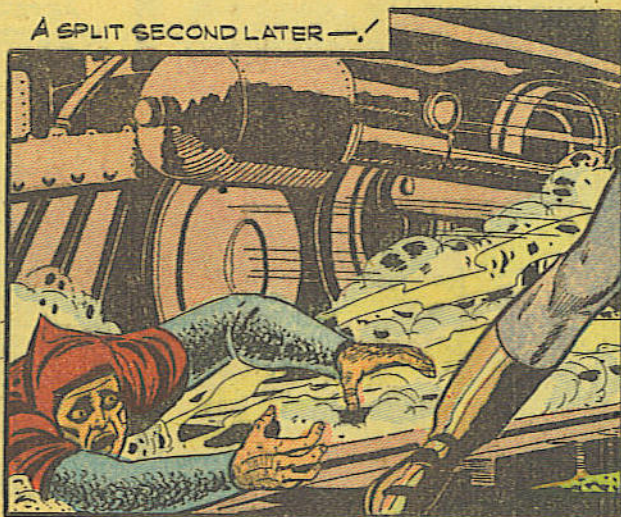




THE TRAIN ... HE DOESN'T SEE THE TRAIN ... HAVE TO PULL AWAY IF I CAN — DON'T HAVE TIME TO SAVE HIM ...



A SPLIT SECOND LATER —!



SHUDDERING, FURY LEAVES THE STATION — AND QUICKLY DONS THE SHROUD-LIKE REGALIA OF THAT GRIM SCOURGE OF EVIL, **THE GHOST RIDER!**

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY LEFT TO PIERCE THIS WEB OF MYSTERY — I'LL OPEN THE BOOK OF DOOM MYSELF!



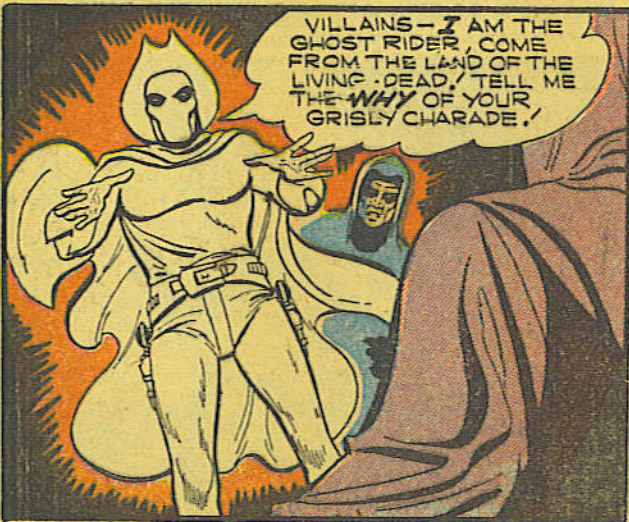
AS I LIFTED THE COVER, A GLASS PELLET BROKE — AND NOW A RED GAS IS RISING. IF NOT FOR MY MASK, I WOULD BE OVERCOME ... I'LL FEIGN UNCONSCIOUSNESS — AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!



THE VILLAINS, I SEE HOW IT IS DONE, HE WHO OPENS THE BOOK BLACKS OUT TEMPORARILY BECAUSE OF THE MIST — AND BY THE TIME HE OPENS HIS EYES, THE FALSE PHANTOMS HAVE ALREADY TROOPED IN ...!



VILLAINS — I AM THE GHOST RIDER, COME FROM THE LAND OF THE LIVING DEAD, TELL ME THE **WHY** OF YOUR GRISLY CHARADE!



BUT AT THAT MOMENT, THE GHOST RIDER GLIMPSES BEHIND HIM —

THE HEADSMAN, BUT YOU ARE DEAD! YOU WERE CRUSHED UNDER THE WHEELS OF THE ONRUSHING TRAIN ...

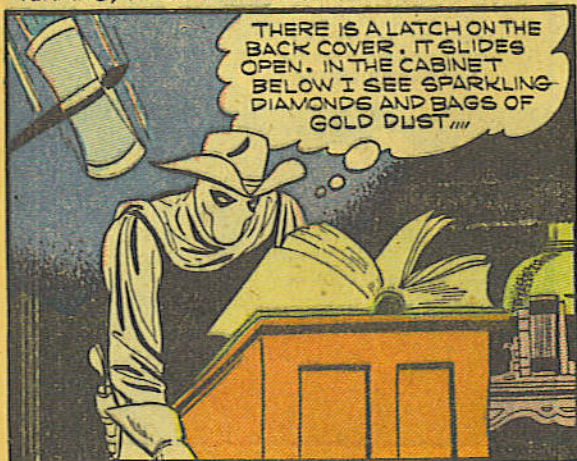
DEAD, AM I? STAND STILL FOR ONE SECOND — AND YOU'LL SEE HOW DEAD I AM!



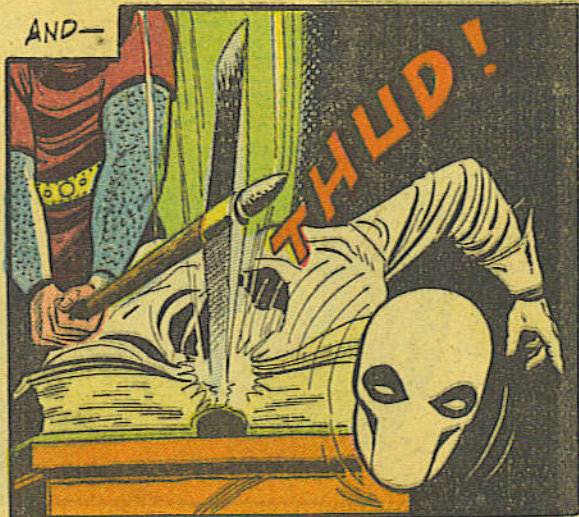


THE GHOST RIDER ACTS AS IF MESMERIZED. TURNING, HE LEANS OVER THE BOOK OF DOOM—

THERE IS A LATCH ON THE BACK COVER. IT SLIDES OPEN. IN THE CABINET BELOW I SEE SPARKLING DIAMONDS AND BAGS OF GOLD DUST!!!!



AND—



Y-YUH  
KILLED  
THUH  
GHOST  
RIDER,  
BOSS!!!

THERE'S NO TIME TO CELEBRATE! THE LAW'LL BE DOWN ON US AS SOON AS WORD GETS AROUND! WE'RE MOVING OUT OF THIS TERRITORY TONIGHT! GIVE ME AN HOUR'S HEAD START— THEN VAMOOSE!



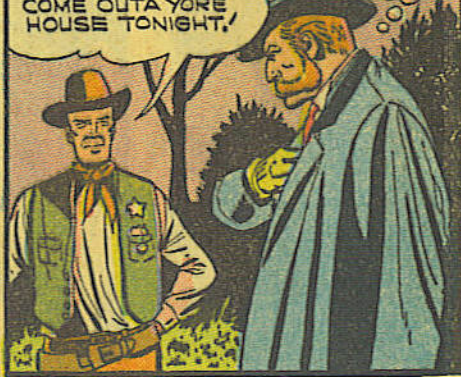
THAT MUST'VE BEEN BROWNWELL WHO GOT KILLED BY THE TRAIN. I GAVE HIM MY SPARE HEADSMAN OUTFIT AND SENT HIM AFTER FURY!!!! TOO BAD WE WON'T BE ABLE TO USE THE BOOK OF DOOM ANY MORE. ONCE WE'RE SET UP AGAIN, I'LL HAVE TO THINK UP A NEW HIDING PLACE FOR OUR LOOT!!!!



BUT JUST AS PHILBRICK CLEARS THE HOUSE —

STAND FAST, MR. PHILBRICK! I GOT A MESSAGE FROM THE GHOST RIDER TONIGHT. HE TOLD ME TO STOP ANYBODY THAT COME OUTA YORE HOUSE TONIGHT!

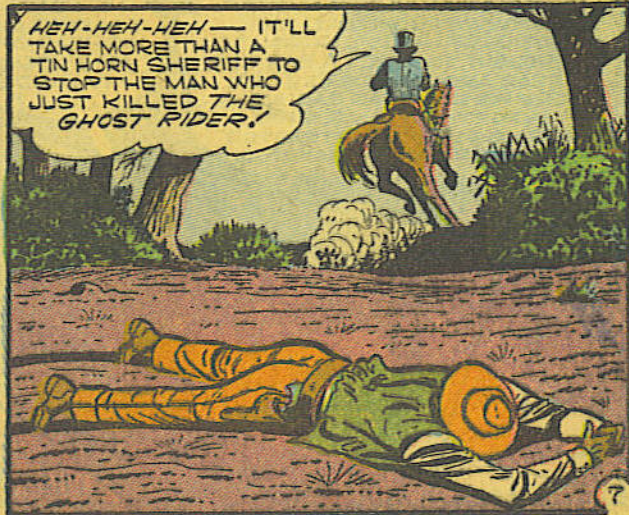
THE PELLETS WITH THE RED GAS—I HAVE SOME IN MY POCKET.



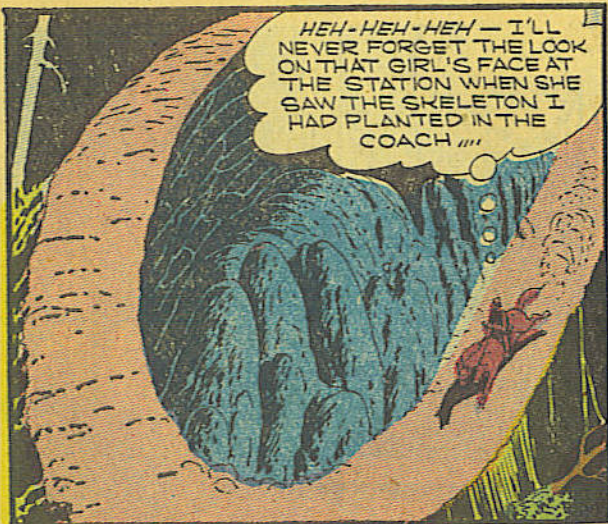
W-WHAT'S THET  
SMOKE? MY EYES!!!!  
I CAN'T KEEP MY  
EYES OPEN!!!!



HEH-HEH-HEH — IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A TIN HORN SHERIFF TO STOP THE MAN WHO JUST KILLED THE GHOST RIDER!







HEH-HEH-HEH — I'LL NEVER FORGET THE LOOK ON THAT GIRL'S FACE AT THE STATION WHEN SHE SAW THE SKELETON I HAD PLANTED IN THE COACH !!!



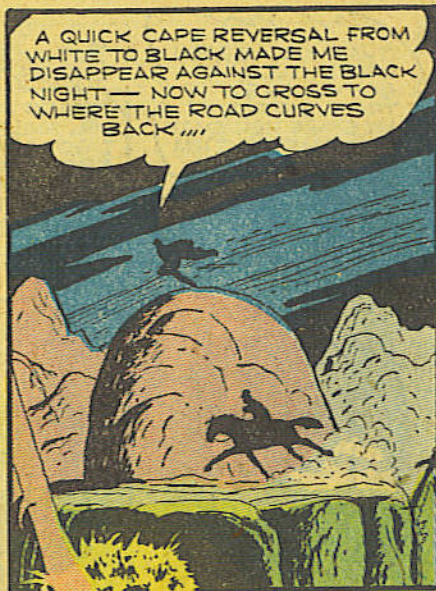
SUDDENLY—

HALT, MAN OF EVIL! WITH THESE COLD-AS-DEATH HANDS I HAVE PLACED MY SEVERED HEAD BACK ON MY SHOULDERS!!!

NO, NO! IT CAN'T BE!



I'LL RUN YOU DOWN!... HE— HE'S DISAPPEARED!

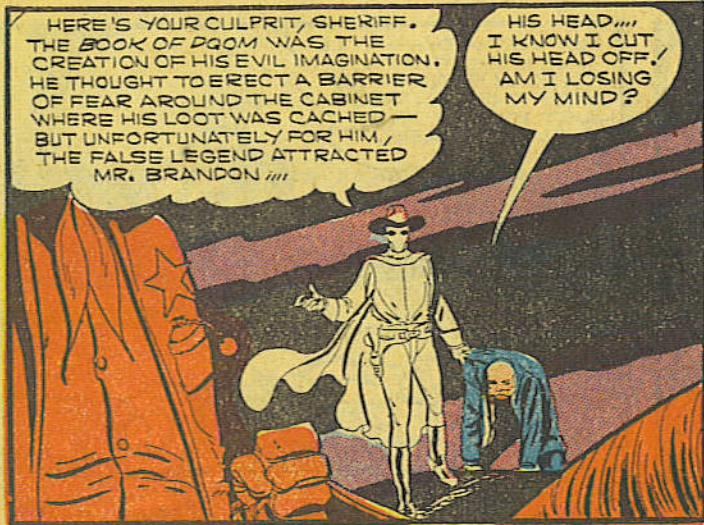


A QUICK CAPE REVERSAL FROM WHITE TO BLACK MADE ME DISAPPEAR AGAINST THE BLACK NIGHT — NOW TO CROSS TO WHERE THE ROAD CURVES BACK !!!



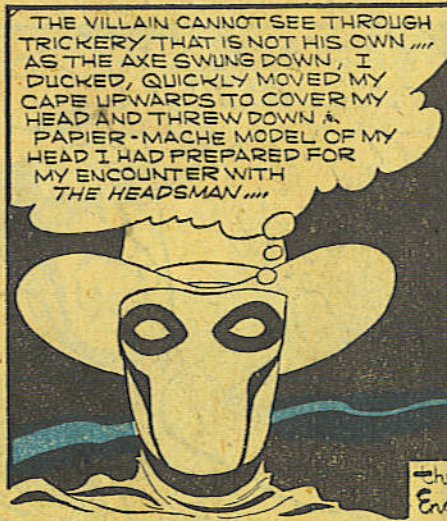
NO, NO! I GIVE UP!

THE MAN WHO BEHEADED THE GHOST RIDER GIVES UP SO EASILY? I AM ASTOUNDED!



HERE'S YOUR CULPRIT, SHERIFF. THE BOOK OF DOOM WAS THE CREATION OF HIS EVIL IMAGINATION. HE THOUGHT TO ERECT A BARRIER OF FEAR AROUND THE CABINET WHERE HIS LOOT WAS CACHED — BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOR HIM, THE FALSE LEGEND ATTRACTED MR. BRANDON !!!

HIS HEAD!!!! I KNOW I CUT HIS HEAD OFF! AM I LOSING MY MIND?



THE VILLAIN CANNOT SEE THROUGH TRICKERY THAT IS NOT HIS OWN... AS THE AXE SWUNG DOWN, I DUCKED, QUICKLY MOVED MY CAPE UPWARDS TO COVER MY HEAD AND THREW DOWN A PAPIER-MACHE MODEL OF MY HEAD I HAD PREPARED FOR MY ENCOUNTER WITH THE HEADSMAN !!!





**YOU CAN BE  
THE GHOST RIDER!**

**ONLY  
\$1.00**

**AMAZE YOUR FRIENDS  
WITH THIS WEIRD SCARF  
THAT BECOMES A REAL  
GHOST RIDER MASK  
THAT GLOWS IN THE DARK!**

A jet-black scarf  
...with the name of  
**THE GHOST RIDER** bannered  
on it...and a **SPOOKY**  
white mask that becomes a  
**GHOST RIDER SKULL** when  
the mask is tied on...!



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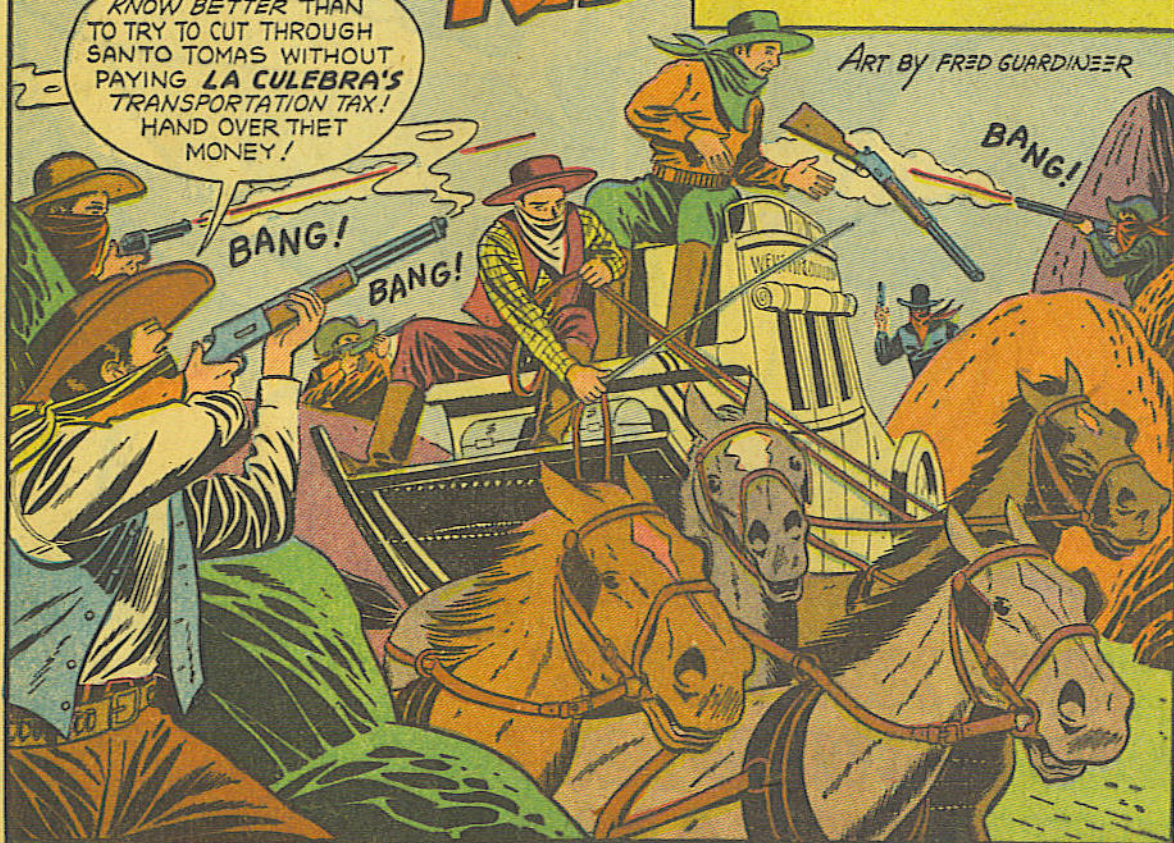


# the DURANGO KID

ONE OF THE MOST AMBITIOUS OUTLAWS EVER TO INVADE THE WEST WAS LA CULEBRA! NOT CONTENT WITH MERE OUTLAWRY, THIS POWER-HUNGRY DEMAGOGUE GRABBED OFF A LARGE TRACT OF LAND AND, ALONG WITH SOME OF THE WORST RANNIGANS IN THE COW-COUNTRY, TRIED TO SET UP A "SIX-GUN EMPIRE!"

YOU OUGHTA KNOW BETTER THAN TO TRY TO CUT THROUGH SANTO TOMAS WITHOUT PAYING LA CULEBRA'S TRANSPORTATION TAX! HAND OVER THET MONEY!

ART BY FRED GUARDINEER



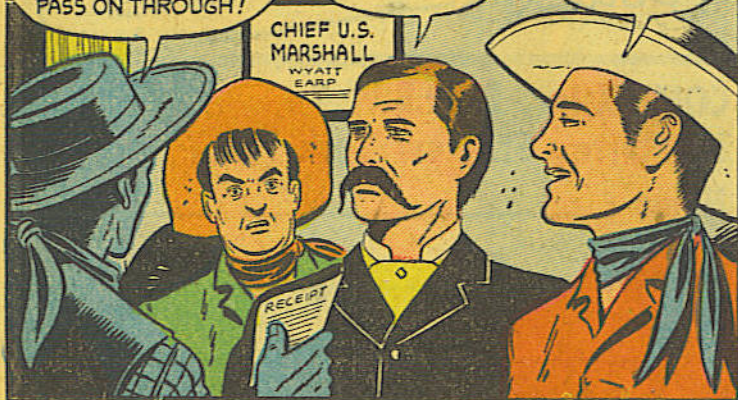
LATER... ...AND THEN HE GIVES ME THIS "RECEIPT" FOR ALL THE MONEY WE WERE CARRYING AND TELLS ME IT'S OKAY TO PASS ON THROUGH!

LA CULEBRA AGAIN! IF ONLY THE CAVALRY WASN'T WEAKENED SO BY THE WAR, WE'D HAVE THIS STOPPED IN NO TIME!

THE CAVALRY! DON'T TELL ME YOU NEED THE CAVALRY TO FIGHT AN ORDINARY OUTLAW?

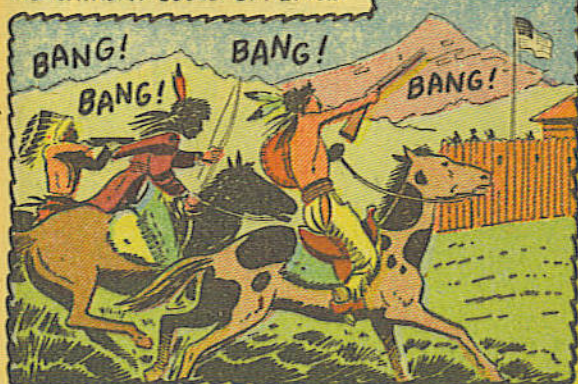
LA CULEBRA ISN'T AN "ORDINARY" OUTLAW, STEVE. HE'S ONE OF THE CLEVEREST, MOST POWERFUL COYOTES EVER TO COME WEST. ALL DURING THE WAR HE RAN RAMPANT, ROBBING, KILLING AND BUILDING UP HIS BAND OF THIEVES, CUTTHROATS AND THE SCUM OF THE WEST...

CHIEF U.S. MARSHALL  
WYATT EARP

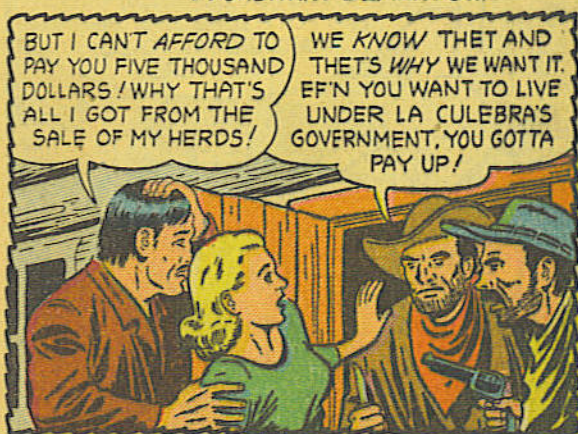




**"BUT HE WASN'T CONTENT WITH PLAIN OUTLAWRY. PREYING ON THE WEAKNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT AFTER THE CIVIL WAR, HE SET OUT TO BUILD AN EMPIRE! HE BEGAN BY SIGNING TREATIES WITH THE INDIANS AND USING THEM TO COMBAT WHAT LITTLE OPPOSITION THE CAVALRY COULD OFFER..."**



**"HE SENT HIS 'TAX COLLECTORS' AROUND TO THE RANCHERS IN THE SANTO TOMAS VALLEY, PRACTICALLY DRIVING MOST OF THEM OUT WITH EXORBITANT DEMANDS..."**



**"CUTTHROATS; WHOSE ONLY KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAW WAS WHAT THEY LEARNED FROM THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BAR, WERE APPOINTED JUDGES...AND THERE WAS NO APPEAL FROM THEIR SENTENCES..."**



**THIS LA CULEBRA RUNS THE SANTO TOMAS VALLEY WITH AN IRON HAND AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.**

**EVEN THE DURANGO KID WOULD HAVE TROUBLE WITH HIM!**

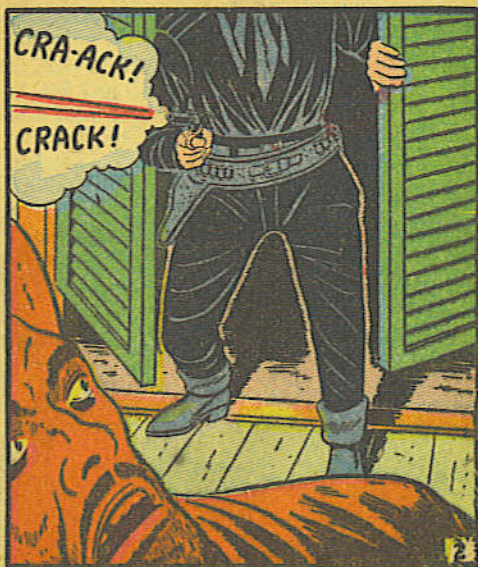
**WHO IS THIS LA CULEBRA, ANYWAY, MARSHALL?**

**NOBODY SEEMS TO KNOW EXACTLY. AS NEAR AS I CAN TELL, NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN HIM IN PERSON.**

**MULEY, SUPPOSE YOU SADDLE UP OUR HORSES AND GET READY FOR A LITTLE TRIP. I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT MIGHT WORK...**



**FEW DAYS LATER, IN SIN CITY, THE "CAPITAL" OF SANTO TOMAS...**









THAT NIGHT...

ON THAT STAGE  
APPROACHING IS TEN  
THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH OF WELLS  
FARGO PAYROLL. RIDING TRIGGER ON IT IS  
DEPUTY MARSHALL MULEY PIKE. WE'LL  
TAKE CARE OF THE PAYROLL. YOUR JOB,  
DURANGO, WILL BE TO TAKE CARE OF  
PIKE. UNDERSTAND? HOSSE HERE WILL  
RIDE WITH YOU TO SEE NO MISTAKE  
IS MADE.

THEY WANT  
ME TO KILL  
MULEY!  
AND IF I  
DON'T  
SOMEONE  
ELSE WILL!  
I'VE GOT TO  
ACT FAST!



ALL RIGHT,  
GENTLEMEN,  
LET'S RIDE!

HERE GOES  
NOTHING!

WHATSA MATTER,  
DURANGO,  
CAIN'T YOU  
RIDE?

OOOPS!

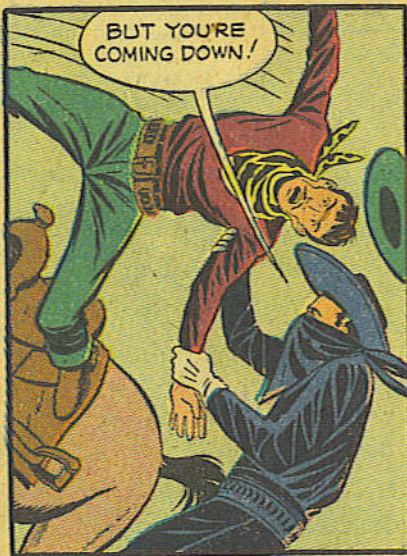


COME ON,  
GIT UP!

I'M UP,  
BUT...



BUT YOU'RE  
COMING DOWN!



THAT OUGHT TO HOLD  
YOU FOR A WHILE! NOW TO  
DO SOME FAST  
RIDING!



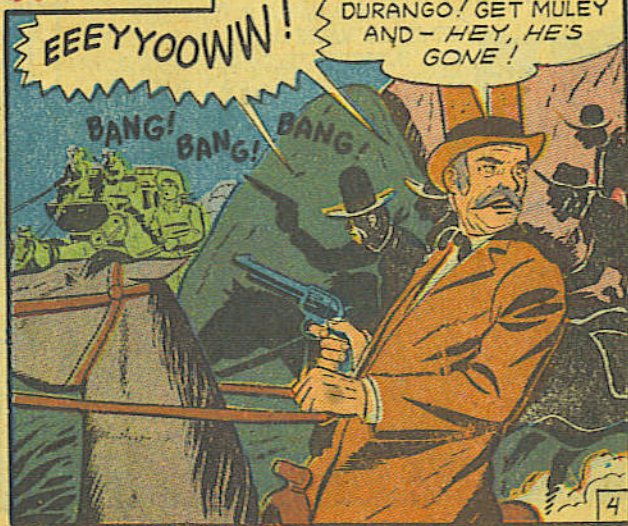
LUCKILY  
I HAD MY "CHANGE"  
NEARBY! IF THE DURANGO KID IS  
IN WITH THE OUTLAWS, **STEVE  
BRAND** 'LL HAVE TO  
TAKE OVER...



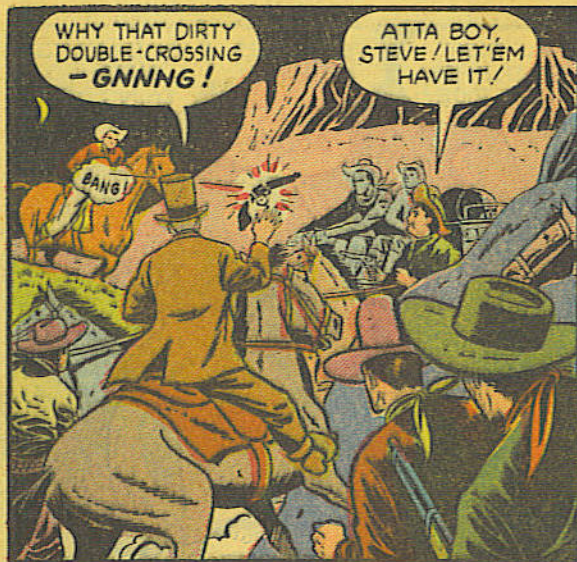
MEANWHILE...

EEEYWOOWN!

THAT'S YOUR CUE,  
DURANGO! GET MULEY  
AND - HEY, HE'S  
GONE!











WAIT!



IS THIS MAN'S ACCUSATION TRUE, DURANGO? PERHAPS WE'D BETTER CHECK THOSE MONEY BAGS BEFORE WE...



I HATE TO HIT AN OLD MAN, JUDGE, BUT I CAN'T USE CHIVALRY NOW!



YOU TOLD HIM TOO MUCH FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, HOSS! HOW ABOUT SWALLOWIN' SOME OF THIS FIRST!

STOP HIM! STOP THAT MAN!



YOU'RE MAKING TOO MUCH NOISE TOO, JUDGE! SORRY.



NOW FOR LA CULEBRA, WHOEVER HE MAY BE!



ALL RIGHT, LA CULEBRA, COME OUT OF THERE!

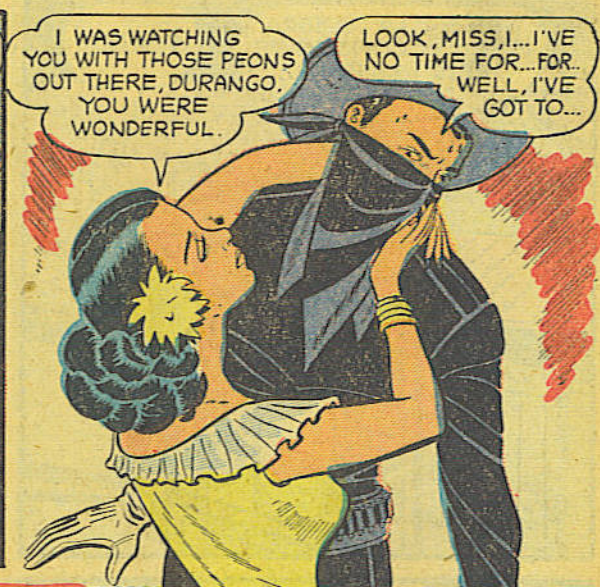
AH, DURANGO, PUT DOWN THAT GUN! THAT IS NO WAY TO ADDRESS -





... A LADY! BESIDES LA CULEBRA IS BUSY RIGHT NOW AND I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.

YOU!



I WAS WATCHING YOU WITH THOSE PEONS OUT THERE, DURANGO. YOU WERE WONDERFUL.

LOOK, MISS, I... I'VE NO TIME FOR... FOR... WELL, I'VE GOT TO...



YOU'RE JUST STALLING SO LA CULEBRA CAN MAKE A GETAWAY! WELL, YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY WITH IT!

OH, NO? PERHAPS THIS WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND, DURANGO!



BANG!  
BANG!



THE POSSE'S ROUNDING UP ALL THE COYOTES IN SIN CITY RIGHT NOW, DURANGO. I GOT HERE AS SOON AS I COULD.

GOOD! MAYBE WERE TOO LATE TO CATCH LA CULEBRA ALREADY! HE WAS IN THAT ROOM!

YOU'RE NOT TOO LATE, DURANGO. YOU NEED GO NO FURTHER, YOU SEE-



I AM LA CULEBRA! THE GAME'S UP-THERE'S NO SENSE OF FIGHTING ANY MORE...

WAL, I'LL BE...!



LATER...

GOSH, STEVE, WOULD YOU EVER THINK A PURTY GAL LIKE THAT COULD BE SECH A DESPRIT OUTLAW?

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT 'THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES,' MULEY. IT'S DEADLIER THAN THE MALE. TOO BAD...

THE  
END



# STRAIGHT ARROW

STRAIGHT ARROW shot an arrow of gold in defense of Comanche Land—but he had no way of knowing that this was only the beginning of **MURDER**, of **DANGER**, of

**"THE BIG FRAME-UP!"**

AND DRY GOODS

HARDWARE

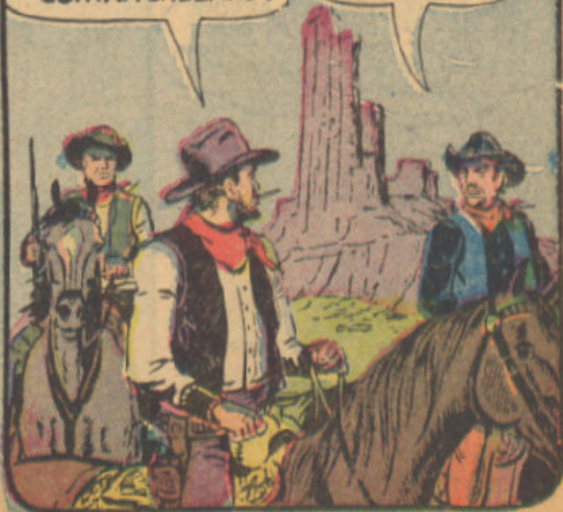


SAM BARKER, BIG CATTLEMAN, RIDES WITH HIS HERD AND RIDERS OUT TOWARD COMANCHE TERRITORY...

KEEP YORE IRONS  
UNLIMBERED, MEN—  
THAR MIGHT BE  
TROUBLE!

I'M BAD IN  
NEED O' SUMMER  
GRAZIN'—AN' AS FUR  
AS I'M CONCERNED  
THERE'S ONLY ONE  
PLACE-TUH GIT IT...  
**COMANCHELAND!**

I JUST HOPE  
THEM INJUNS PUT  
UP A HOWL—I'M  
ACHIN' TUH **PLUG**  
ONE O' THEM!





O'BRIEN, A NEW HAND,  
SPEAKS UP...

I DUNNO, BARKER—MY DON'T  
SEEM FAIR TUM ME! THEM  
COMANCHES GOT ANCIENT  
RIGHTS TUH THEIR LAND.  
I SHORE DIDN'T SIGN UP  
FER THIS KINDA'  
THING! THIS MIGHT  
START WAR!

WHU-UT?



TALKIN' BACK, HUM?  
SET 'IM UP, BLACKY!

RIGHT,  
BOSS!



THIS'LL LARN YUH  
THET I'M BOSS 'ROUND  
HYAR! YUH'LL DO  
WHUT I SAY,  
GET IT?

SLUG 'IM,  
BOSS! I'M  
HOLDIN' 'IM!



BUT SUDDENLY...

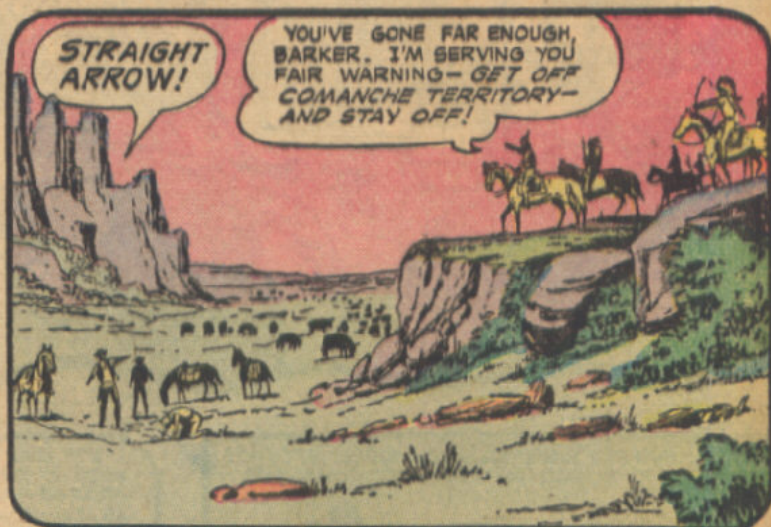
WHUT  
THUH...

Yiiii!!



**STRAIGHT  
ARROW!**

YOU'VE GONE FAR ENOUGH,  
BARKER. I'M SERVING YOU  
FAIR WARNING—GET OFF  
COMANCHE TERRITORY—  
AND STAY OFF!



ALL RIGHT, STRAIGHT ARROW,  
YUH GOT US COVERED. BUT  
I'M TAKIN' THIS HYAR ARROW.  
SEE?—AS EVIDENCE THAT  
YOU SHOT ME...



BUT I'M COMIN' BACK! AN'  
YUH'LL GIT THIS ARROW BACK  
WITH INTEREST!













SOME MIGHTY FUNNY THINGS  
BEEN HAPPENIN' TODAY. FUST  
STRAIGHT ARROW AN' NOW  
YOU, STEVE! IT'S SHORE  
HARD TUH BELIEVE,  
BUT...



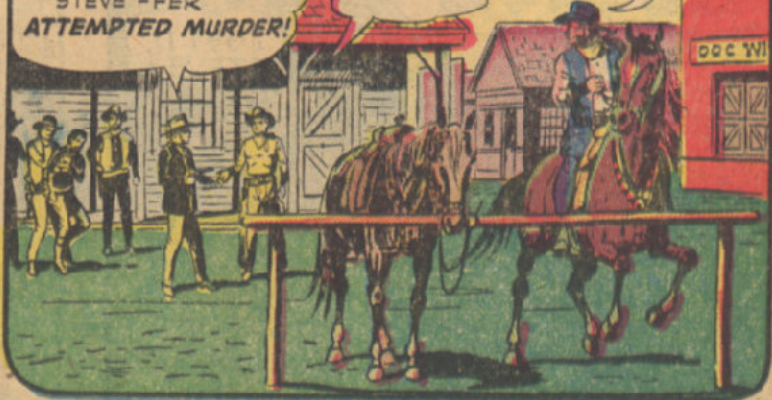
STEVE'S IN TROUBLE, ALL  
RIGHT—AN' IT LOOKS LIKE  
A FRAMEUP TUH ME! I  
GOTTA GIT 'IM OUTA JAIL  
SO HE KIN SET THINGS  
TUH RIGHTS—AN' THAR'S  
ONLY ONE WAY TUH  
DO IT!



...BUT THAR'S ENOUGH  
WITNESSES TUH MAKE A  
CASE OF IT! I GOTTA  
TAKE YUH TUH JAIL,  
STEVE—FER  
**ATTEMPTED MURDER!**

CAN'T YOU SEE  
THEY'RE LYING,  
SHERIFF?

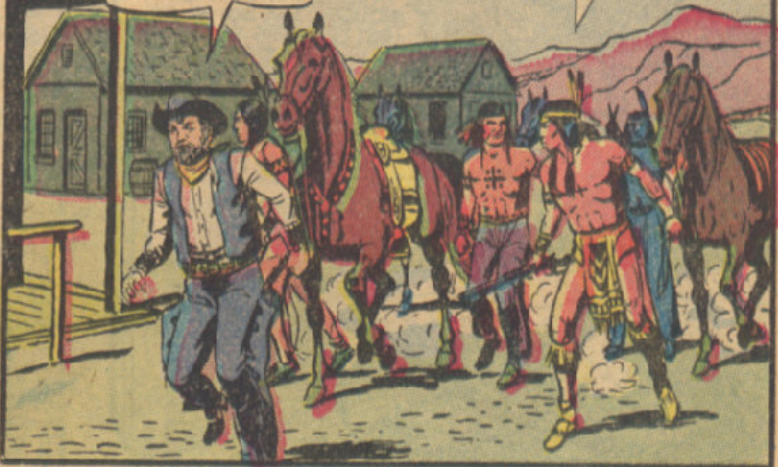
WHUT  
THUH—?!?!



THAT NIGHT...

THIS WAY  
COMANCHES—AN'  
KEEP IT QUIET!

ANYTHING FOR STEVE  
ADAMS, FRIEND OF THE  
COMANCHES.



HSSSSST!  
HYAR'S A ROPE,  
STEVIE—YUH  
KNOW WHUT  
TUH DO WITH IT!

GOT  
IT!



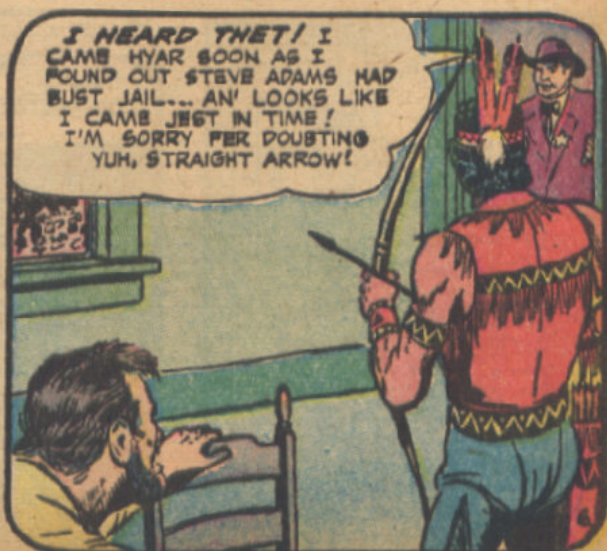
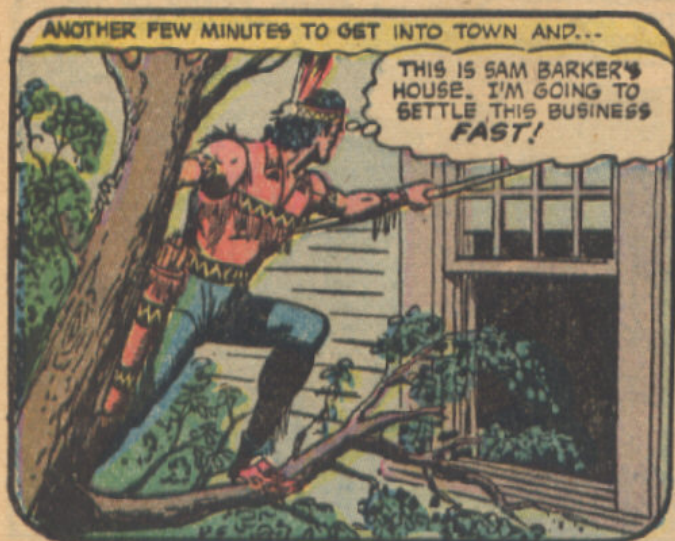
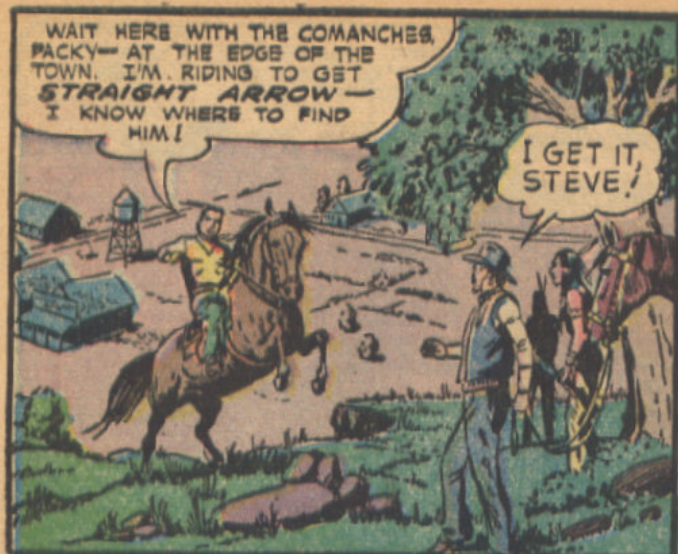
AND A MOMENT LATER

THANKS,  
COMANCHES!

WE GOT A HOSS  
FER YUH, STEVE!



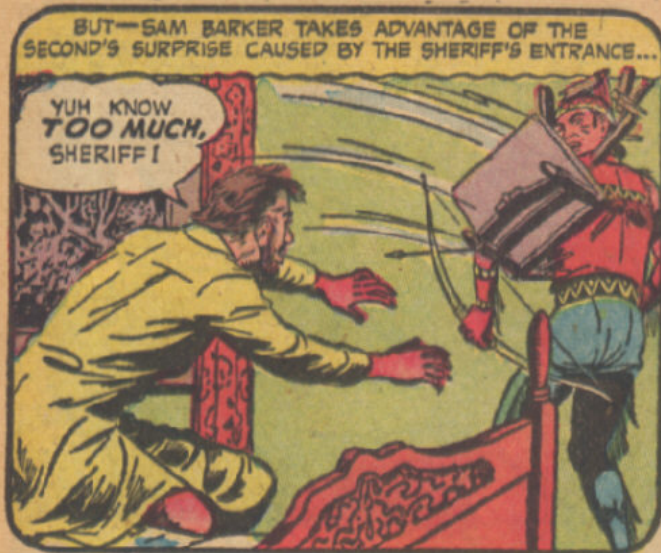






BUT—SAM BARKER TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE SECOND'S SURPRISE CAUSED BY THE SHERIFF'S ENTRANCE...

YUM KNOW  
TOO MUCH,  
SHERIFF!



...AND JUMPS OUT THE WINDOW...

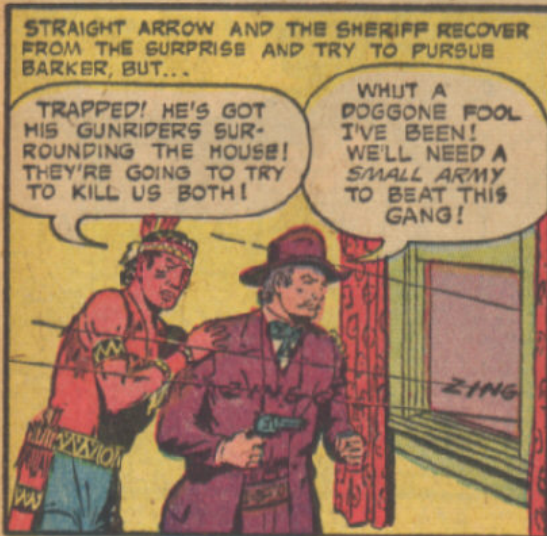
BLACKY! BOZO!  
PETE! EVERYBODY—  
GRAB IRON AN' COME  
OUT SHOOTIN'!



STRAIGHT ARROW AND THE SHERIFF RECOVER FROM THE SURPRISE AND TRY TO PURSUE BARKER, BUT...

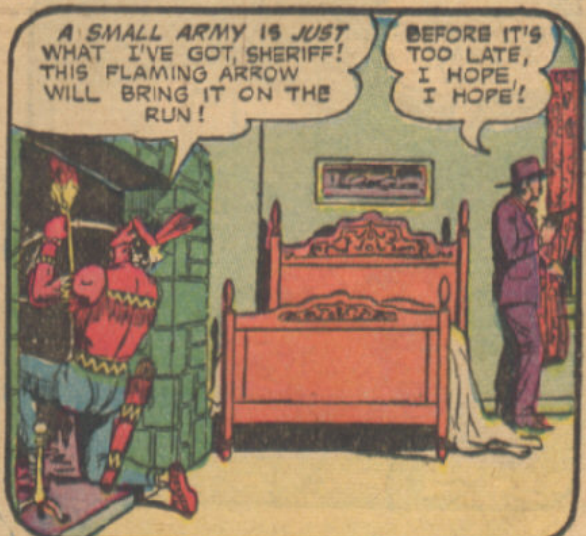
TRAPPED! HE'S GOT  
HIS GUNRIDERS SUR-  
ROUNDING THE HOUSE!  
THEY'RE GOING TO TRY  
TO KILL US BOTH!

WHUT A  
DOGGONE FOOL  
I'VE BEEN!  
WE'LL NEED A  
SMALL ARMY  
TO BEAT THIS  
GANG!



A SMALL ARMY IS JUST  
WHAT I'VE GOT, SHERIFF!  
THIS FLAMING ARROW  
WILL BRING IT ON THE  
RUN!

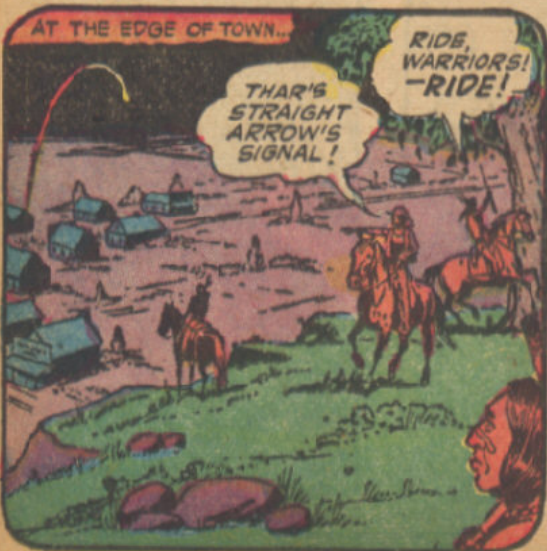
BEFORE IT'S  
TOO LATE,  
I HOPE,  
I HOPE!



AT THE EDGE OF TOWN...

THAT'S  
STRAIGHT  
ARROW'S  
SIGNAL!

RIDE,  
WARRIORS!  
—RIDE!



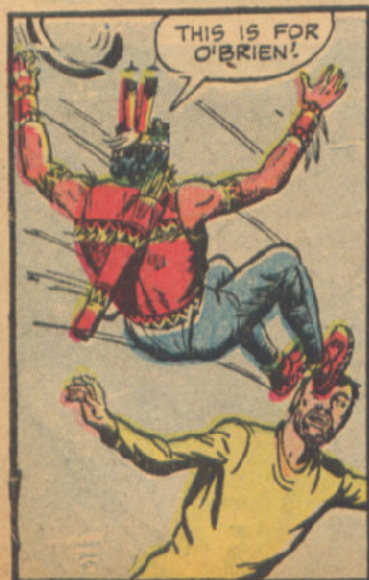
...AND A MOMENT LATER—

YIIIIII!!! INJUNS—  
A WHOLE ARMY  
OF THEM!

SCATTER!  
HIT FER COVER!  
WE'LL SHOOT  
THIS OUT!









# TIM HOLT

FOR MANY MOONS OLD FORT APACHE HAS BEEN ABANDONED BY EVERY LIVING THING. THE KEEN EYES OF INDIAN SENTINELS CAN FIND NO MOVEMENT WITHIN ITS WOODEN WALLS—UNTIL THE NIGHT THAT A GHOST MAKES ITS REFUGE THERE, AND BEGINS TO TERRORIZE THE APACHE HORDES!

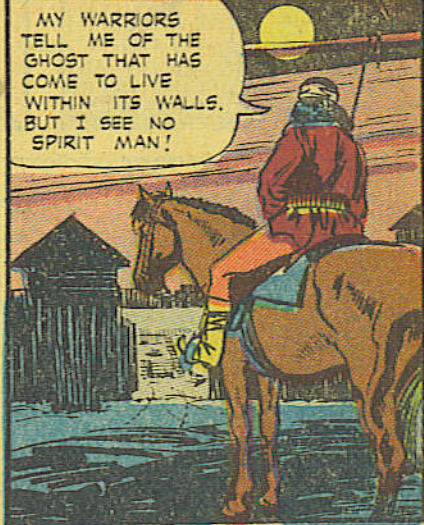
WHEN **REDMASK** AND A WAGONTRAIN OF SETTLERS SEEK SHELTER THERE AGAINST MARAUDING REDMEN, THEY DISCOVER THAT THEY HAVE HOWLING INDIANS BEFORE THEM AND A PHANTOM OF FRIGHT BEHIND THEM! IS THERE ANY ESCAPE FROM THE APACHES, OR FROM—

**"THE GHOST OF FORT APACHE!"**



ONLY MOONLIGHT SILVERES THE OLD STOCKADE AND THE DARK BUILDINGS OF THE DESERTED FORT...

MY WARRIORS TELL ME OF THE GHOST THAT HAS COME TO LIVE WITHIN ITS WALLS. BUT I SEE NO SPIRIT MAN!



AND THEN A SCREAM OF UTTER MALIGNANCY RIPS THE QUIET NIGHT—

Aiiieeeee-HA-HA-HA!





WITH A HOWL OF TERROR—HIS GREASED HAIR STIFF ON HIS HEAD—GUTAHANEE, WARCHIEF OF THE MIMBRANO APACHES—FLEES IN HORROR...

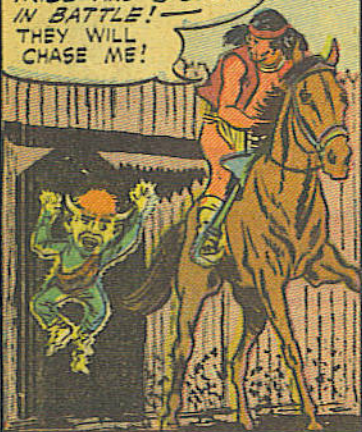
BUT DAYLIGHT BRINGS SENSE BACK TO THE CANNY CHIEF—AND AT THE HEAD OF HIS WARRIORS HE RIDES INTO THE OLD FORT...

SUDDENLY—

A FIREBALL!  
IT CAME FROM  
THE AIR ITSELF!

A DEMON  
WEAPON!  
RUN! RUN!

THE GHOSTS OF THE  
DEAD SOLDIERS MY  
TRIBE AND I SLEW  
IN BATTLE!  
THEY WILL  
CHASE ME!



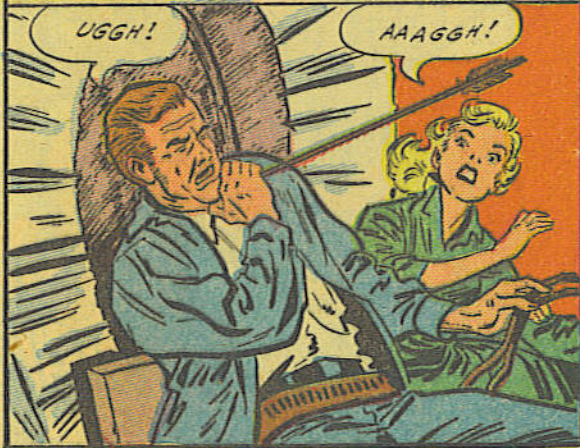
Aiiieeee-HA-HA-HA...!



RAGING WITH FRIGHT AND FURY, AND SEEKING TO SOOTHE HIS OUTRAGED PRIDE, GUTAHANEE HURLS HIS WARRIORS AT AN UNFORTUNATE WAGONTRAIN...

UGGH!

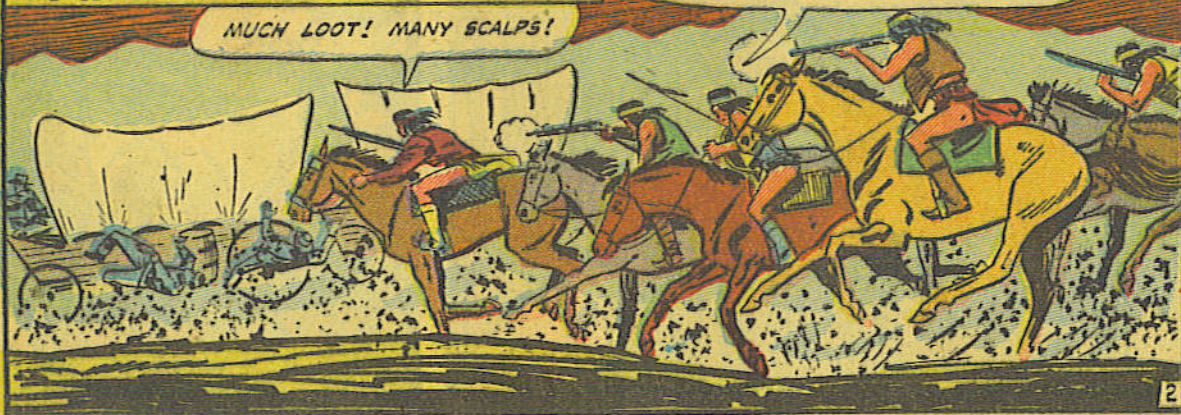
AAAGGH!



CAUGHT IN THE OPEN, UNABLE TO CLOSE IN A CIRCLE, THE SETTLERS ARE DOOMED...

YAAAAAEEEEEE! APACHE NOT KILL GHOST  
—BUT APACHE KILL PALEFACES!

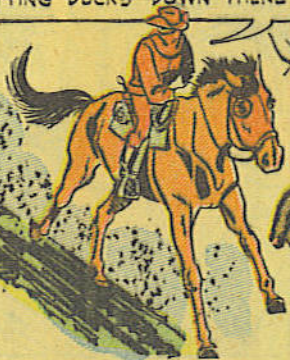
MUCH LOOT! MANY SCALPS!



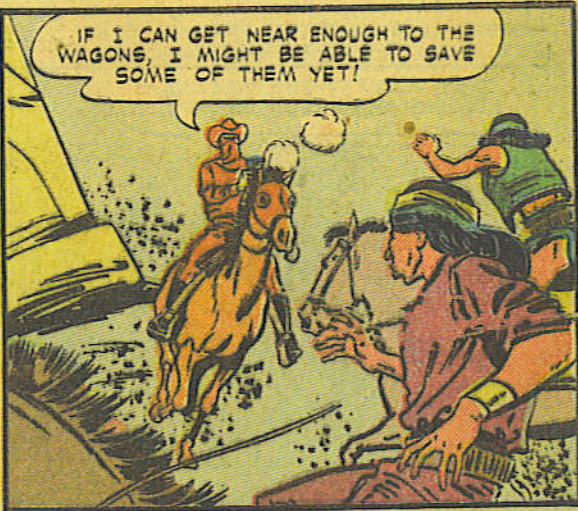


**DRAWN BY THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE, REDMASK OF THE RIO GRANDE TOES HIS GREAT STALLION, SUN DANCE FORWARD...**

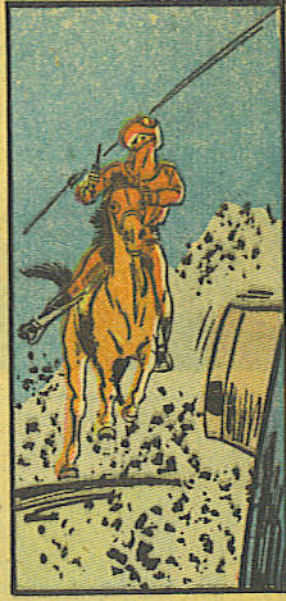
SETTLERS DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT APACHES! THEY'LL BE SLAUGHTERED LIKE SITTING DUCKS DOWN THERE!



IF I CAN GET NEAR ENOUGH TO THE WAGONS, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SAVE SOME OF THEM YET!



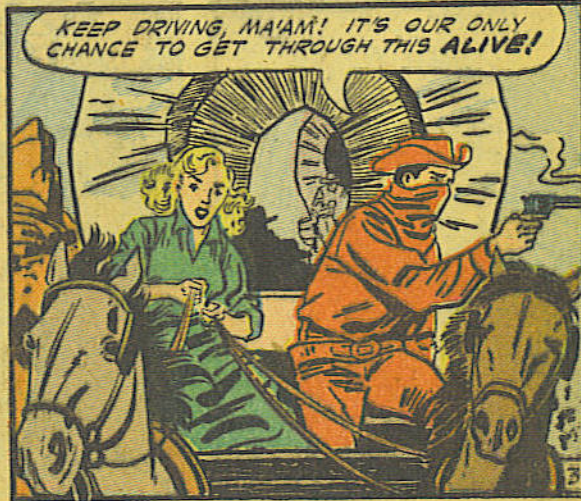
**AT FULL GALLOP, REDMASK RACES IN. HIS SIXGUNS SPEAK AGAIN AND AGAIN! WITH HOT LEAD HE BLASTS A PATH TOWARD THE CONESTOGAS!**



MOVE YOUR WAGONS! PRONTO!—  
—BEFORE YOU'RE ALL KILLED! LEAVE  
ALL YOUR WAGONS BUT THREE!



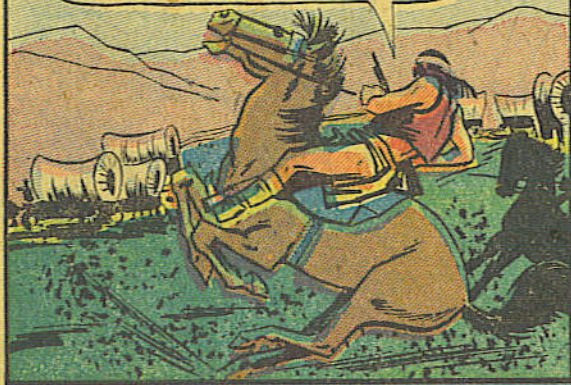
KEEP DRIVING, MA'AM! IT'S OUR ONLY  
CHANCE TO GET THROUGH THIS ALIVE!





SUSPECTING A TRAP, THE APACHES DRAW BACK FROM THE ONRUSHING WAGONS—

THEY MOVE THREE WAGONS—  
LEAVING THE REST BEHIND!



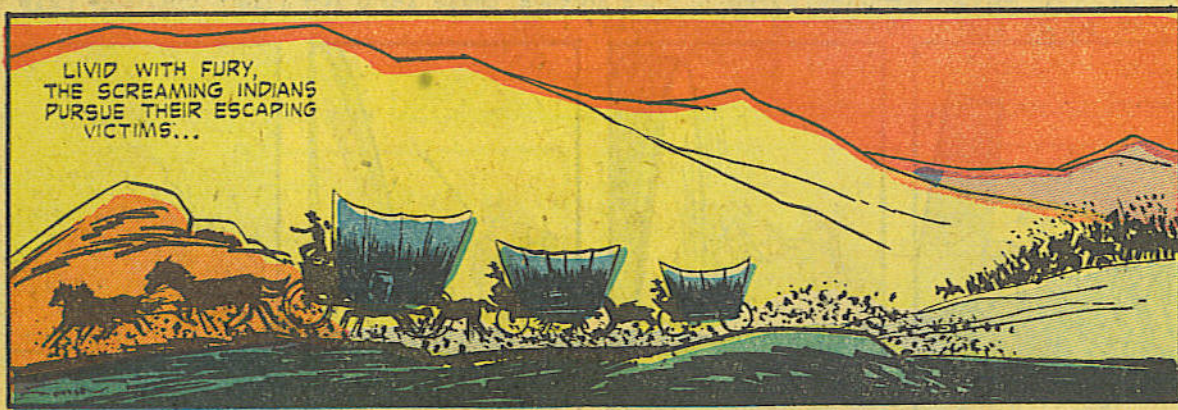
A DOZEN PAINTED WARRIORS RUSH TOWARD THE ABANDONED CONESTOGAS—

HU! A  
TRICK!

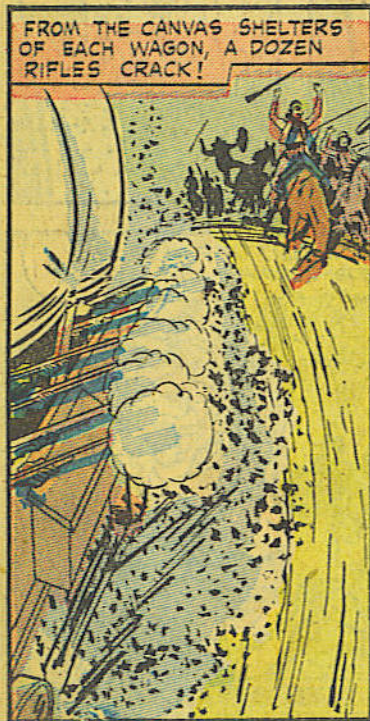
THE MEN AND WOMEN FLED  
IN THE THREE WAGONS—NONE  
REMAINING HERE!



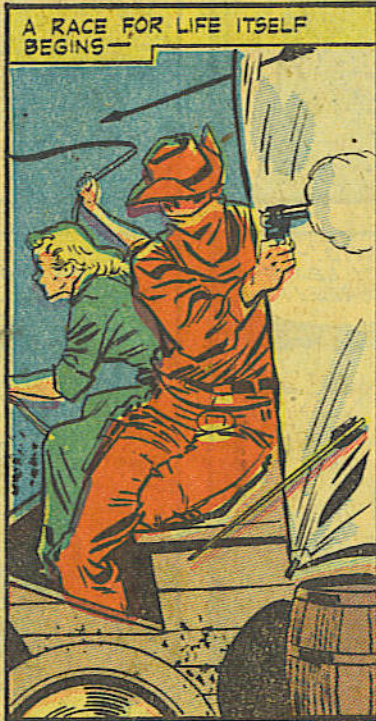
LIVID WITH FURY,  
THE SCREAMING INDIANS  
PURSUE THEIR ESCAPING  
VICTIMS...



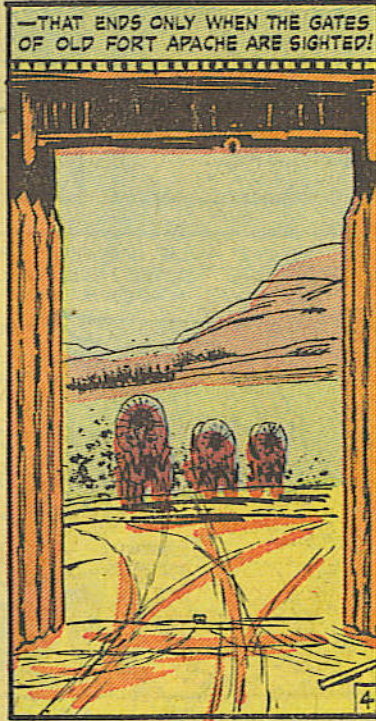
FROM THE CANVAS SHELTERS  
OF EACH WAGON, A DOZEN  
RIFLES CRACK!



A RACE FOR LIFE ITSELF  
BEGINS—



—THAT ENDS ONLY WHEN THE GATES  
OF OLD FORT APACHE ARE SIGHTED!





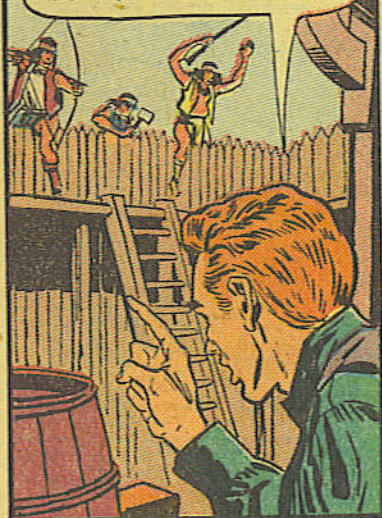
A DOZEN HANDS LIFT THE OLD BAR AND SLIDE IT IN PLACE!

THERE! THAT DOES IT!



BUT AS DUSK DROPS ITS MANTLE ACROSS THE PRAIRIE THE APACHES SCALE THE WALL!

LOOK! THEY GOT INSIDE!



AND THEN—

Aiiiee-na-na! HA!

THE GHOST THAT SHINES LIKE THE MOON!

FLEE!



FORT APACHE GHOST STILL LIVES!

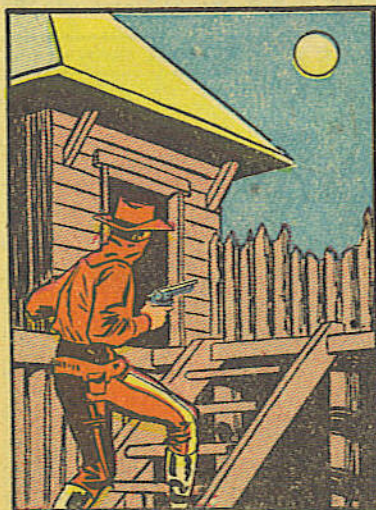
WILL STEAL OUR SPIRITS IF WE DO NOT RUN!



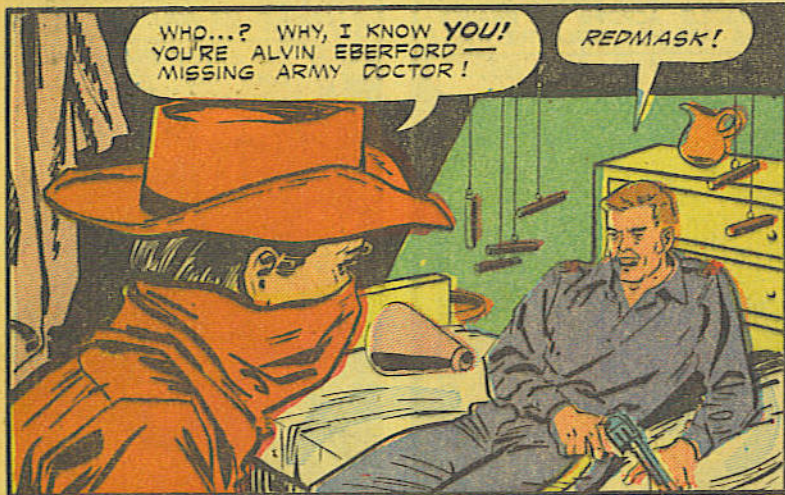
WHAT WAS IT?

THA-THAT AWFUL SCREAM!

IT CAME FROM THAT-WHATEVER-IT-WAS ON THE PARAPET! STAND BACK! I'M GOING UP!







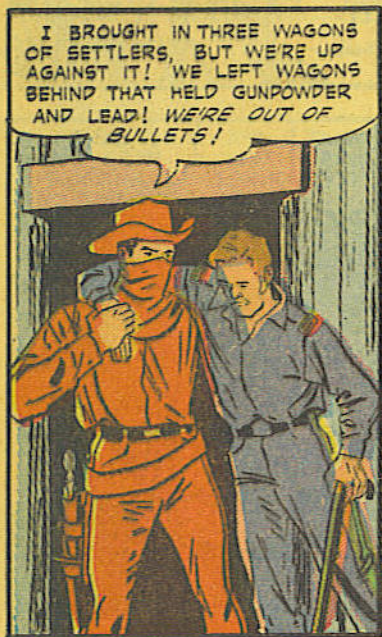
WHO...? WHY, I KNOW **YOU!**  
YOU'RE ALVIN EBERFORD—  
MISSING ARMY DOCTOR!

**REDMASK!**



WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
HERE? AND  
THOSE WEIRD  
FIGURES  
ALONG THE  
WALL? DID  
YOU MAKE  
• THEM?

I HAD TO—OR  
THE APACHES  
WOULD HAVE  
TAKEN MY  
SCALP LONG  
AGO! I TOOK  
SICK, AND THE  
FORT WAS THE  
ONLY PLACE  
WHERE I COULD  
GET NEEDED REST!  
I RIGGED UP THE  
PUPPETS, SOME CHEMI-  
CAL FIREBALLS, AND  
SCARED THE DICKENS  
OUT OF THE  
REDSKINS!



I BROUGHT IN THREE WAGONS  
OF SETTLERS, BUT WE'RE UP  
AGAINST IT! WE LEFT WAGONS  
BEHIND THAT HELD GUNPOWDER  
AND LEAD! WE'RE OUT OF  
BULLETS!



IF THERE WERE  
ONLY SOME WAY  
TO—**DOC!** YOU  
CAN HELP! YOU  
HAVE YOUR  
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT  
WITH YOU!

SURE,  
REDMASK—  
BUT WHAT  
GOOD'LL  
IT DO?

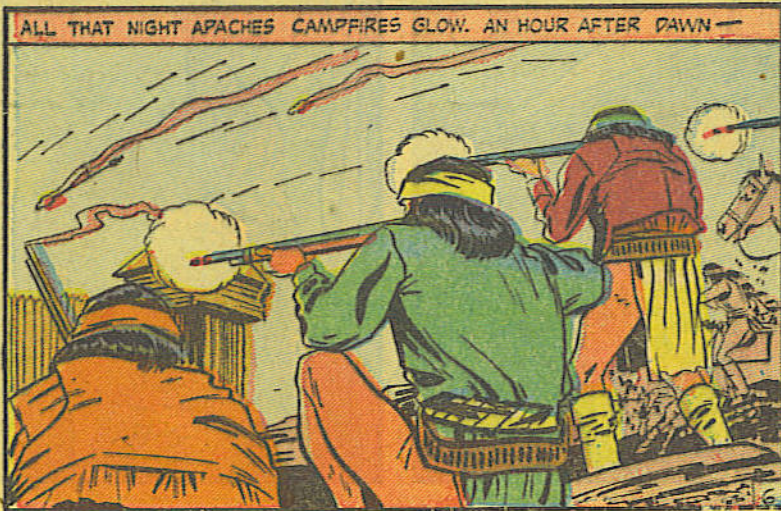


LADIES, I'M ASKIN'  
YOU TO DONATE A  
SILK PETTICOAT  
EACH! IF MY IDEA  
WORKS, WE HAVE  
A FIGHTING  
CHANCE!

WHAT'S  
HE WANT  
WITH  
OUR SILK  
PETTICOATS?



LATER, HIGH ON THE RAMPARTS,  
REDMASK RELEASES A DOZEN  
SILK BALLOONS, MADE OF THE  
PETTICOATS AND FILLED WITH  
HYDROGEN PRODUCED FROM THE  
DOCTOR'S STORES—



ALL THAT NIGHT APACHES CAMPFIRE GLOW. AN HOUR AFTER DAWN—



THE GATE GOES DOWN! A DOZEN HOWLING INDIANS RACE THROUGH THE DOORWAY!



WE HAVE NO BULLETS—SO THIS HAS TO WORK!



THEY THINK I'M A HEAP BIG MAGICIAN! THEY DON'T KNOW I SPREAD OUT THE BARRELS OF GUNPOWDER I FOUND IN THE FORT, TO DRY! WHEN THAT TORCH HIT IT, IT EXPLODED! I'VE HELD THEM OFF—BUT NEXT TIME WHEN THEY COME IN, WE'RE DONE FOR...!



WITHIN AN HOUR, THE APACHES RE-GROUP AND CHARGE IN—



AND THEN, THE SHARP, HIGH NOTES OF A BUGLE SOUND ON THE DRY AIR...



THE CAVALRY! THEY MUST HAVE FOUND ONE OF OUR MESSAGE BALLOONS AND COME AT THE GALLOP!

I CAN LEAVE NOW! I GUESS OLD FORT APACHE IS DEAD FOREVER... FOR EVEN ITS "GHOST" IS GOING TO LEAVE IT!



THE END





## Jimmy Proved His Point! ...So Can You

Hey fellows, when talking baseball, feel ignored? Some guy always hogging the conversation, pretends to know all the stories, all the strategy?

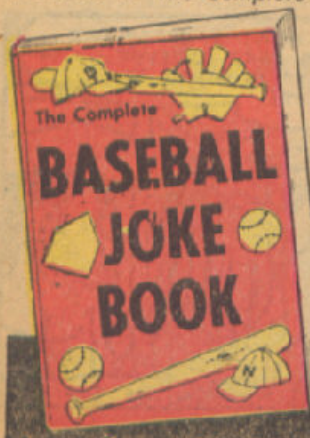
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*Surprise your friends!*

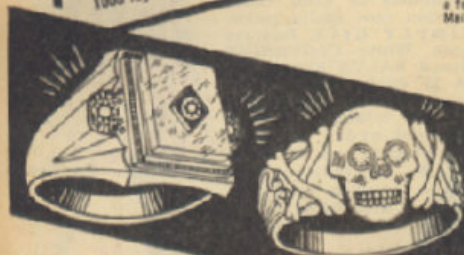
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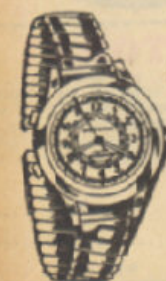
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# LOOK-LOOK PREMIUMS or CASH

# LOOK-LOOK PREMIUMS or CASH



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Act Now 1000 Shot "Red Ryder" Repeater Air Rifles with tube of shot, Candid Cameras with carrying cases, Pocket Watches, Wrist Watches (sent postage paid). Many other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful art pictures suitable for framing with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE used for chaps and mild burns and easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit per catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. Our 58th year. **WILSON CHEM. CO., Dept. 102-F, TYRONE, PA.**



**Boys Girls Ladies**

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**BOYS - GIRLS - LADIES**

**ACT NOW - BE FIRST**



**MAIL COUPON**

**OUR 58th YEAR**

**SEND NO MONEY - WE TRUST YOU - ACT NOW**

Wrist Watches, School Boxes, Pen & Pencil Sets (sent postage paid). Many other valuable Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** art pictures suitable for framing with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked in catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. Mail coupon today. We are reliable. **Wilson Chemical Co., Dept. 102-H, Tyrone, Pa.**

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**ACT NOW** **BE FIRST** **BOYS GIRLS LADIES MEN**

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**Wilson Chem. Co., Dept. 102-K, Tyrone, Pa.**

## BE FIRST - ACT NOW PREMIUMS or CASH COMMISSION



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**BE FIRST**



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ST..... R.D..... BOX.....

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